

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Quemoy Jangles Pentagon Nerves

Drew Pearson is on a work-and-play vacation. Today's column is written by his assistant, Jack Anderson.

By Jack Anderson

Like a festering tonsil in the mouth of Red China, tiny Quemoy Island has inflamed the Far East with a war fever that has our Joint Chiefs pacing the floor. Here are the latest temperature readings:

1. The Communist siege has reduced supplies on Quemoy to a dangerous low. Nationalist gun crews are so short of ammunition that they are returning Red artillery fire only sporadically. The only way to break the siege, the Joint Chiefs now concede, is to send American ships, all the way to the Quemoy beaches. The Nationalist navy, which has been running the final three-mile dash, cannot handle the job. At the first approach of a Communist torpedo boat, the Nationalists nervously stop all operations and put out to sea.

2. If American warships operate any closer to the Chinese mainland, intelligence boss Allen Dulles warns, they could get involved in shooting incidents that would lead to war. This danger is the gravest, he says, since the end of World War II. For instance, the Joint Chiefs are demanding the right to answer attacks on American forces with raids against the Chinese mainland.

3. The Joint Chiefs have also warned that Quemoy cannot be defended against Red China's overwhelming forces without nuclear weapons. However, President Eisenhower has sent out strict orders that American commanders in the Formosa area must not use atomic bombs, no matter what the provocation. Ike has ruled that only conventional weapons are to be used to answer any Chinese Communist attack unless he specifically authorizes otherwise.

4. Communist sources are spreading the word that Russia has turned over atomic bombs and missiles to the Chinese Reds. True or not, it is causing a shudder of fear throughout the Far East. Soviet diplomats are also complaining that they can't control their Chinese allies.

5. The Air Force is rushing its best supersonic fighters, F-101s and F-104s, to the Formosa area. These will be joined in a composite attack force by B-57 light jet bombers. However, our supply lines to the Far East have been stretched dangerously thin.

The Joint Chiefs still do not expect an invasion of Quemoy. "Why should they break their teeth on Quemoy when all they have to do is swallow it?" shrugged one top general. More likely, the Reds will step up their massive artillery bombardment in a continuing effort to cut the Quemoy supply line. Peiping's strategy

probably will be to increase military pressure even while Chinese and American ambassadors are discussing a cease-fire in far-off Poland. This was the same technique they used during the Korean truce talks in order to get the best possible deal.

Inside the Atomic Energy Commission: The big-bang boys who opposed President Eisenhower's H-bomb test ban are now looking for loopholes to subvert it. They are figuring frantically how they can get away with testing nuclear weapons after the President's Oct. 31 deadline.

This same clique, led by Commissioner W. F. Libby, is also pulling every available test bomb off the shelf to explode in Nevada before Oct. 31.

At first, they intended to announce that the Nevada explosions were part of "Operation Plowshare," which is exploring the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions. Since most of the bombs to be detonated are strictly weapons, however, they decided not to take the chance. As part of "Operation Plowshare," the Atomic Energy Commission intends

to seal an atomic bomb in a New Mexico salt mound next year. They believe the explosion can be contained within the mound and energy can be converted into electric power. However, skeptics claim this system will cost \$5 to light a 40-watt bulb. The proposal is known as "Project Goshaw." The idea of using controlled nuclear explosions to separate oil from oil shale, however, is considered workable. The only danger is that the underground explosions might contaminate the water table. Humble Oil, Dow Chemical, and Westinghouse Electric have expressed interest in the oil shale experiments which could increase the Nation's oil reserves tenfold.

Headlines and Footnotes: New York's ex-Gov. Tom Dewey, the great prosecutor, may find himself at the other end of a cross-examination when Congressman Oran Harris' scandal-hunting committee digs into the Securities and Exchange Commission this month. Dewey made \$300,000 on a Crowell-Collier Publishing Company stock deal, thanks to an inside tip given him by neighbor, Robert Duchs of Irving, N. Y. Dewey's role in the transaction was confirmed, despite SEC regulations to the contrary.

